



16 April 2005



SAFETY ALERT Soldier Dies of Apparent Drug Abuse

1. USAREUR recently lost another Soldier due to apparent drug abuse. Although his death remains under investigation, he appears to have died from an overdose of self-injected drugs. He was found dead in his barracks room. What a tragic loss.
2. I am concerned about the problem of drug abuse and excessive alcohol consumption in the Army in Europe. So far this fiscal year, three of our Soldiers may have died from drug overdoses, and one was killed in an alcohol-related accident. Last year across USAREUR we had 713 drug-related incidents and 738 "DUIs." Based on the number of incidents that have occurred this year, the figures for 2005 may be even higher.
3. Drug abuse is a serious problem. The consequences are often deadly for individuals who choose to risk their lives by getting high. While all of us must be prepared to accomplish our missions and fight the Global War on Terrorism, we each have special obligations to prevent drug abuse:
 - **Leaders:** I urge you to set an example for your Soldiers and to use the Under the Oak Tree process to get and remain involved in their lives. Demonstrate your commitment to their welfare by ensuring they understand what constitutes safe behavior, and by ensuring that drug abusers get the professional help they need.
 - **First-Line Leaders:** Get to know your Soldiers and—most importantly—take time to talk with them. The success of the Under the Oak Tree process is based on uninhibited, one-on-one discussions between you and your Soldiers. Use this process for these discussions and to make verbal contracts with your Soldiers. Remove any obstacles that prevent you from doing this.
 - **Soldiers:** Once again I ask you to continue upholding the Warrior Ethos, both on and off duty. Each of you is a highly skilled professional. You are also peers, role models, mentors, and ambassadors of freedom and the American way of life. Our entire Nation is judged on your actions. Set the example by not abusing drugs.
4. Ensure that this safety alert is given widest possible distribution by forwarding it electronically and posting it on unit bulletin boards. *No Loss of Life* is our goal. I need every Soldier trained, ready, and fit to continue to execute with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere.

B. B. BELL
General, US Army
Commanding

ANY MISSION, ANYWHERE!

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